

SPARK GAP

Vol. 32, Issue 5/6, May-June 2015 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-two years*

On Our MARC...

Warmer weather is finally here and it feels like summer. I hope everyone is spending their free time planting flowers or just enjoying this fine weather.

May started a summer of activities. We had the Dayton Hamfest in May, the WRTFD Strawberry Fest and Field Day in June. September brings the Heartnut Fest and MARC annual picnic. I hope everyone will get a chance to stop by and participate in as many activities as possible.

I would like to thank all those that helped with set-up and tear down at the Strawberry Fest. The day was beautiful and we had 10 people leave their names requesting more information about Amateur Radio and when we are going to hold another Tech Review Course. As that weekend was also Museum Ships Weekend special event several ship contacts were made to demonstrate the capabilities of Amateur radio.

The most memorable part of the day was when Robert Glamm stopped by. The Mid-State Amateur Radio club was honored to have a very special guest join our demonstration display at the Strawberry festival on Saturday, June 6, 2015. Robert Glamm, age 96 and a long time ham (W9UGN) stopped by with his son David. Mr. Glamm is a Pearl Harbor survivor and the aviation communicator who broke communication silence to inform the Allied Pacific Fleet Headquarters of the location of Japanese ships that were preparing for the invasion of Wake Island during World War II. He still has in his possession the code key he used for that communication from the patrol aircraft. Mr. Glamm is still active as a ham and is trying to obtain permission for a ham station at his retirement home. We were very pleased to have him attend our event and even more excited in his interest to joining our club.

Our June speaker will be Gary Davis. Gary will be speaking about his project that is a 40/20M 1.3W QRP CW transmitter. He developed the transmitter for use on sailboats. However, the transmitter and antenna can also be used for land based applications. His story & project are currently published in the May-June issue of Ocean Navigator magazine. The story tells about the transmitter he built for his friend who used it to communicate with him by CW during his 6 week voyage to the Bahamas aboard his 28ft. sailboat in 2014. The magazine has also published the schematic and parts list on line.

July's speaker will be Tony Tolbert, W9AMT. He will be give a presentation about DMR and how it's transforming Amateur Radio. What is DMR, you ask? DMR, or Digital Mobile Radio, is an open source standard for TDMA digital communications. Originally designed for the commercial market, DMR, also known as Motorola© MotoTRBO™, was adopted by the amateur community in 2009 with the intent of building a worldwide IP linked repeater network. Since then, the network has grown to over 400 repeaters and over 11,000 users worldwide in over 30 countries.

The first DMR repeater in Indiana was established in 2011 with the intent of bringing this widely popular and rapidly growing technology to the local amateur radio community. Just 4 years after its inception Hoosier DMR has grown exponentially providing coverage in several densely populated areas throughout the state. The talk groups connect Indiana DMR users with fellow enthusiasts locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Hoosier DMR welcomes all interested licensed amateur operators to experience the power of the DMR technology and utilize the open system. To learn more about becoming a DMR-MARC user, please visit the website at www.hoosierdmr.net

Hope to see you on Saturday.

Jacki, KI6QOG
President



MAY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:
KC9GCH-Linda Harshberger
N9AWM-Andrew Murrey
KU9V-Anthony Stokes
K9NTZ-Kevin Nuetzman

JUNE BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:
WA9VBG-Sam Carter
W8ISH-Jack Parker
K9WRC-Bill Carnes
KD9DHY-Josh Marshall

FCC Eliminates Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Regulatory Fee

The FCC is eliminating the regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. The change will not go into effect, however, until required congressional notice has been given. This will take at least 90 days. As the Commission explained in a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, and Order* (MD Docket 14-92 and others), released May 21, it's a matter of simple economics.

"The Commission spends more resources on processing the regulatory fees and issuing refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment," the FCC said. "As our costs now exceed the regulatory fee, we are eliminating this regulatory fee category." The current vanity call sign regulatory fee is \$21.40, the highest in several years. The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014 and estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100.

In its 2014 *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* regarding the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2014, the FCC had sought comment on eliminating several smaller regulatory fee categories, such as those for vanity call signs and GMRS. It concluded in the subsequent *Report and Order (R&O)* last summer, however, that it did not have "adequate

support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighed the collected revenue or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process.”

The FCC said it has since had an opportunity to obtain and analyze support concerning the collection of the regulatory fees for Amateur Vanity and GMRS, which the FCC said comprise, on average, more than 20,000 licenses that are newly obtained or renewed, every 10 and 5 years, respectively.

“The Commission often receives multiple applications for the same vanity call sign, but only one applicant can be issued that call sign,” the FCC explained. “In such cases, the Commission issues refunds for all the remaining applicants. In addition to staff and computer time to process payments and issue refunds, there is an additional expense to issue checks for the applicants who cannot be refunded electronically.”

The Commission said that after it provides the required congressional notification, Amateur Radio vanity program applicants “will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments. The revenue that the Commission would otherwise collect from these regulatory fee categories will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories.”

The FCC said it would not issue refunds to licensees who paid the regulatory fee prior to its official elimination.

ARRL News May 2015

CONGRATULATIONS !

Jacki, KI6QOG signs her new Extra Class License



Congratulations goes to Jim Jefferies who also received his Extra Class License. (no photo available)

Strawberry Fest 2015

By Jack Parker W8ISH

With a little help from White River Township Firefighters, MARC hams were able to erect the Steve Ellis AE9SE mast and antenna farm. MARC amateur radio operators have provided ham radio demonstrations for the annual Strawberry Fest for 20 years. Our Public Relations display attracted nearly a dozen people who signed up to learn more about the hobby. New banners promoting the No Code theme seemed to attract extra attention.

Bruce K9ICP and Ken KD9ALA provided HF rigs to demonstrate how high frequency ham radio works. A good number of club members stopped by to take in the action. Many contacts were made with Navy ship museums around the country as they celebrated Ship's Museum weekend. Steve Carmean, K9DY, made his presence known by checking in via HF radio from down south.

Weather was perfect for tanning, operating and talking ham radio. Even one of the Andrew Murray, N9AWM, kids picked up a wrench to lend a hand.

Steve Ellis provided two 40 foot masts for an HF antenna. White River fire fighters stepped up to lend a hand as our small set up crew struggled to lift one of the poles into place. Everyone in attendance agreed that this too was a great weekend event for MARC members.

Up next: Field Day 2015 at the Johnson County EOC June 27 and 28.



STRAWBERRY FEST 2015



Bob & Fireman mast pull



Did you bring the spaghetti sauce?



Jacki & Bob put up banner



Ken & Steve with the street mast



Jim & Ken tie knotts



Rusty takes care of the PR



Jacki & Bruce Radio ops



Jim adjusts the tension by the solar cells



Robert Glamm W9UGN stops by



Future amateur radio operator

..... Pictures by Jack W8ISH & Chris KQ9Y

MARC PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES

August 29th --- Greenwood Community Band Festival – Surnia Park – Greenwood

September 11th & 12th ---- Heartnut Festival --- Johnson County Park

September 26th ---- Greenwood High School Band Invitational – Greenwood HS

HAMFESTS

07/11/2015 | [Indianapolis Hamfest](#)

Location: Indianapolis, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Indianapolis Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://www.indyhamfest.com>

11/14/2015 | [Indiana State Convention \(Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo\)](#)

Location: Fort Wayne, IN

Type: ARRL Convention pending Executive Committee approval

Sponsor: Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

Website: <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

AUGUST MARC MEETING

ARES/RACES PRESENTATION

An explanation of the ARES and RACES Communication Programs will be given so all members will have a better understanding of both emergency communications programs for Johnson County.

Some of the topics discussed will be how Amateur Radio works with the community and the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency during emergencies and disaster conditions.

You will also have a better understanding of the public service opportunities and events amateur radio is used in Johnson and surrounding counties.

An explanation of why each amateur radio net and each public event amateur radio is involved is important to the community and a practice of our communication skills.

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

**WA9RDF Repeater 146.835/ 146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL Tone**

Club Officers:

President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG

Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT

Secretary: Rhonda Curtis– WS9H

Treasurer: Cy Young – N9CHY

Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

**Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM
ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO
AMATEURS**

***The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club***

**P.O. Box 836
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Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

**Please send your articles to my email
n9siu@yahoo.com
no later than the 3rd of the month**

